

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

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Invariably in Advance.Six months, 75 cents. No subscription for a
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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

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SOLDIERS NOT INDIFFERENT.

The plea now made by the Congressmen who are anxious to avoid a vote on pension legislation is that the soldiers of the country are satisfied with what has been done for them, and are indifferent to any further measures of relief. This pretext is being worked to its utmost to chill the earnestness of real friends of the soldier, and to afford his enemies an excuse for denying him his rights.

Nothing can be farther from the truth. Never in the history of the country has there been a time when so large a proportion of the soldiers have been so earnest in their desire for just pension legislation as they are at present.

But there is not a man among the survivors of the Union armies who does not know of broken-down comrades who are now eating the bitter bread of want and penury.

There is not a man of them who does not know possibly a score of men who gave invaluable service to the country, but who, because of the strains of that service, are now disabled from earning a support for themselves and their families, and who are languishing in destitution because of the failure of the Government to do its duty by them.

No one knows better than the ex-soldiers of the country how many faithful soldiers are suffering bitterly because the Government withholds what is due them; how many soldiers' wives and widows, children and orphans go hungry and cold, without decent clothing, without fire, medicines or household necessities, because of the insufficiency and injustice of the pension laws.

No men know so well as old soldiers the suffering caused by the Government's failure to keep its promises, because no men are doing so much by contributions of money, food, clothing and personal attention to make good the Government's short-comings and relieve the distress that it every relieve.

Every G.A.R. Post, every Woman's Relief Corps, and every Camp of the Sons of Veterans in this country is doing a vast amount of work and spending large sums of money which it indignantly feels should be done and spent by the United States.

All these are watching the proceedings of Congress with anxious interest to see what will be done toward redeeming the honor of the Nation in fulfilling its obligations to its soldiers. They are watching their own Representatives to see what they are doing to make good their lavish protestations of love for the soldier during the campaign when they were candidates. These gentlemen can rest assured that every act of theirs during the present Congress, every speech made on pension matters, or every failure to speak when they should have spoken, every vote and every failure to vote on pension propositions is being canvassed and debated with an earnestness not aroused by any other issue, and that the results of those debates will be felt unmistakably in the campaigns of this Fall.

It is not too late yet for those who have been remiss to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Much will be forgiven those who will unite in urging forward and in passing a bill which will embody the recommendations of the G.A.R. National Pension Committee.

THE NEW YORK ENCAMPMENT.

The proceedings of the Encampment of New York make pleasant reading, for the meeting was unusually large and the earnestness and harmony of those in attendance very gratifying to all well-wishers of the Order. In assigning causes for this we must not fail to give due credit to the able administration of Department Commander H. Clay Hall, who labored wisely, earnestly and well during his term of office for the upbuilding and strengthening of the Order. It is reassuring to feel that he has a worthy successor, who will carry on the work with undiminished zeal and ability.

Comrade J. I. Sayles, who was elected Department Commander, after an exciting but very good-natured contest, is a successful lawyer of Rome, and is now in his 43d year. He enlisted April 29, 1861, in the 17th N.Y., and served with it through the siege of Yorktown and the Peninsula campaign. After his discharge he read law, and in 1866 graduated from the Albany Law School. He has achieved especial prominence as a criminal lawyer. In person he is tall and stout, weighing nearly 300 pounds, and bearing much resemblance to President Cleveland. He is very popular with all who know him, and has been an active G.A.R. man for many years. He is one of the charter members of Skillin Post, No. 47, of Rome.

Charles A. Orr, the Senior Vice Commander, and who was elected almost unanimously, was a private in Co. G, 87th N.Y., and saw much hard fighting. He has been a member of the New York Assembly, and is now Clerk of Erie County. The Encampment endorsed Gen. John A. Reynolds for Commander-in-Chief.

Among the more notable acts of the Encampment was the adoption of the following resolutions, and their transmission to the President by Commander H. Clay Hall:

Whereas it is proper that veterans, irrespective of party, should recognize any thing done by a public official which demonstrates his intentions to carry out the principle that veterans, when competent, are entitled to recognition because of service rendered the country in time of war; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Department of New York, Grand Army of the Republic, representing an organized body of 35,000 veterans of the war, in annual session assembled in New York City, April 21, 1886, view with satisfaction the course in this respect with satisfaction, and hereby puts itself on record as approving the conscientious discharge of this patriotic duty, believing it to be the wish of the President that the veteran shall be faithfully carried out in favor of those in subordinate authority having power of appointment, employment, or retention in the service of the Government under his administration.

Section 1. A firm belief and trust in Almighty God, and a realization that under His beneficent care and guidance the free institutions of our land—by the assistance and sacrifices of our soldiers—have been preserved, and the integrity and life of the Nation maintained.

Sec. 2. True allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and a respect for and devotion and fidelity to its Constitution and laws with a firm opposition to anything that may tend

THE POLICY OF RETALIATION.

The exclusion of at least some of the products of the countries which have placed the produce of our farms under a ban is imperatively demanded by our National dignity and our National interests. Just now such a course would be a wise one as an economical policy, for the supplying of our people with the excluded products would have to be done at home, and would give employment to our idle workmen, set many of our factories to running full time, and open up an active market for our farm products.

If this exclusion were made permanent it would not be a matter of regret, but quite otherwise. There is nothing that France, Germany, Austria or Italy sells us but what we can produce as well, if not better, at home. In every conceivable way it is better that we should be supplied by people within our own boundaries with all that we now buy from those countries. If by shutting off their market here we force the producers of certain articles to come to this country we are still largely the gainers. So long as these manufacturers are in their own country they are uncertain customers for our products.

We must compete for their trade with the serfs of Russia and the wretchedly-paid peasants of Hindostan. If they settle here they must buy the products of our own acres.

We would bring a great number of manufacturers and skilled operatives here if we would make such an exclusion. The American market is the best foreign market that the European countries have, and if it were shut up to any class of goods a large proportion of the manufacturers engaged in producing them would either have to go out of business or remove hither. Take, for example, France: Her exports to this country are annually valued at from \$60,000,000 to \$80,000,000 a year, or from 10 to 12 per cent. of her entire foreign trade. To cut off this trade, or any considerable portion of it, would be to threaten her manufacturers with bankruptcy, which they could only avoid by having those representing one-tenth of the production remove their establishments to this country. The benefit of having this enormous amount distributed every year among our own people instead of being sent abroad, need only be alluded to to be appreciated.

Let us take for consideration the annual values of the leading articles that we import from France:

Silk goods	\$14,500,000
Woolen goods	19,000,000
Manufactures of leather	6,000,000
Cotton goods	2,000,000
Ornamental feathers	2,500,000
Wines and liquors	2,000,000
Imitation jewelry	1,700,000
Perfumes and artificial flowers	1,000,000
Fancy goods and buttons	1,500,000
Glassware and pottery	1,000,000

It would be of immense advantage to this country if the importation of every one of these articles was prohibited. We have already demonstrated that American taste and skill are entirely adequate to the production of every one of them with the same high grade of excellence and elegance that now distinguishes their production in France, and would require but little stimulus to make the American goods definitely supersede their French rivals.

Germany sells us every year \$65,000,000 worth of goods, or one-ninth of all the goods she sells abroad. These consist mainly of cotton and woolen goods, wines, beer, albums, china, glass and porcelain ware, chemicals and beet sugar, all of which can be produced as well and as cheaply in this country as in the Kaiser's realm. To have us adopt a policy against her producers similar to that she has pursued against ours, would be to bring great distress upon them, and prostrate industries she has carefully fostered. She, of all Nations, while the most irritating in her treatment of us, would suffer most from retaliation, and any show of a serious intention on our part to adopt such a course would create a panic from one end of the Empire to the other.

We are better prepared to enter upon a struggle of this kind than any of the Nations who are insulting us by their edicts of prohibition. The reason is that while we are selling them goods that have little if any profit, they are selling us goods upon which they make large profits. The profit to an American farmer on the bushel of wheat or corn he raises for European market is almost insignificant in its smallness. But there is a wide margin in the bottle of wine that the German vine-grower produces for the American market. The Kansas wheat grower will not suffer anything like as much by being shut out of a market as the French or German woolen manufacturer would.

All that is needed on a part of Congress is a little spirit and resolution. It can force a repeal or radical modification within six months of every prohibition edict now in force, if it will show an earnest purpose of holding the Nations who are discriminating against it to a strict account.

LADIES' AID SOCIETIES.

In 1880 an Order was organized to bear the same relation to the Sons of Veterans that the Woman's Relief Corps does to the G.A.R. Its full title is "Ladies' Aid Societies of the Sons of Veterans; U. S. A.," and it has become quite strong in Eastern Pennsylvania and elsewhere. It is doing well nearly everywhere where there are flourishing Camps of the Sons of Veterans. The principles and objects of the Order and the requirements for membership are officially stated as follows:

Section 1. A firm belief and trust in Almighty God, and a realization that under His beneficent care and guidance the free institutions of our land—by the assistance and sacrifices of our soldiers—have been preserved, and the integrity and life of the Nation maintained.

Sec. 2. True allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and a respect for and devotion and fidelity to its Constitution and laws with a firm opposition to anything that may tend

to weaken its loyalty, or in any manner impair the efficiency and permanency of our National Union.

Sec. 3. To assist the Sons of Veterans in keeping alive the memories of our soldiers and their sacrifices for the maintenance of the Union.

Sec. 4. To aid and assist the Sons of Veterans in all their objects, both financially and otherwise.

Sec. 5. To aid and assist worthy and needy members of our Society.

Sec. 6. To inculcate true patriotism and love of country, not only among our membership, but all the people of our land, and to spread and sustain the doctrine of equal rights, universal liberty and justice to all.

MEMBERSHIP.

Our membership is made up as follows:

First. Of the daughters, not less than 16 years of age, of deceased or honorably discharged soldiers, sailors or marines, who served in the Union army or navy during the civil war of 1861-65.

Second. Of the wives of Sons of Veterans.

Third. Of the wives of all veteran soldiers, sailors or marines, as the same are above defined and limited.

Due provision is also made to render the Association perpetual in genealogical order according to established rules.

The Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans has formally endorsed the Order.

The National President is Miss Laura F. Martin, Lancaster, Pa., who will answer all inquiries concerning the Order.

REPORT ON THE CONDITION OF YELLOWSTONE PARK.

The Secretary of the Interior has transmitted to Congress the report of Special Agent W. H. Phillips, of Washington, relative to the administration of affairs in the Yellowstone National Park. He reports the existence of certain great evils which should be corrected. There appears to be a conflict of Federal authority and Territorial jurisdiction exercised by Wyoming inconsistent with good Government. It appears also that under the failure to prohibit the killing of bears within the limits of the park, hunters have slaughtered the elk, buffalo and mountain sheep. Mr. Phillips recommends a cure for this evil the absolute prohibition of the carrying of all firearms into the park.

He also reports that, in strict violation of the rules of the Interior Department, liquor is openly sold at all the hotels and at the Geyser Basins; not only at hotels, but at low groceries intoxicating liquors are publicly sold at all times. To this abuse most of the disorder in the park is attributed.

Mr. Phillips strenuously opposes the building of railroads through the park, and points out the evils that would follow such an innovation.

As to leases for hotels, Mr. Phillips reports great confusion, and that parties have erected buildings without reference to authority, assuming that once erected these structures would not be disturbed. He recommends the removal of all unauthorized buildings.

The report is well written, clear, terse and forceful in style, and presents an amount of thoroughly digested information concerning the great park that must be of the greatest use to Congress and others. The selection of Mr. Phillips for the work was evidently a very happy one.

ABSURD.

A strong endeavor is made to prejudice the public mind against the repeal of the unjust limitation to the arrears law by denouncing it as "a claim agents' raid on the Treasury." This is highly absurd. Only a very ignorant man will fail to understand that pension attorneys cannot have a dollar's worth of interest in the passage of such a law. Their fee is the same whether the claimant gets arrears or not. Whether he is allowed \$5,500 or \$5,000 they cannot get a cent beyond their prescribed fee of \$25.

Every cent of the extra millions which the passage of such an act will take out of the Treasury will go straight into the pockets of the pensioners, without one penny being diverted to the enrichment of the attorneys or agents of any kind. The pension attorneys have as little pecuniary interest in it as they have in the passage of the bill for raising the pensions of widows and dependent relatives from \$3 to \$12 a month, which while paying those deserving ones an additional sum aggregating estimated at \$66,000,000 a year, does not give pension attorneys an extra cent.

A CARDINAL PRINCIPLE.

One cardinal fact in our National economy should always be kept in mind. That is, that so long as we exchange crude products for the manufactured products of other nations, just so long we will lose money.

Whenever we trade a bushel of wheat for a yard of yards of French cloth, we lose by the transaction—no matter what the prices may be. The reason is, that we trade the thing upon which there is the least profit for a thing upon which the profit is large. There is a smaller margin of profits in the production of grain than in any other form of human industry. The reason that the European Governments are willing to admit our grain, but not our pork, is that there is a larger profit in pork-raising than in grain-raising, and they want that profit for their own people.

Our policy toward them should be precisely what theirs is toward us—that is, shut out of our markets the goods upon which they make the most money. Then our own people will be enriched by the manufacture of the profitable goods, and our home markets for our agricultural products.

NO ARMY MULE THIS WEEK.

A combination of circumstances has prevented John McElroy from furnishing an installment of the "Reminiscences of an Army Mule" this week, but he will be on hand next week with an unusually good chapter to make up for the omission.

ASK YOUR CONGRESSMAN TO DO ALL HE CAN TO insure the adoption of the National G.A.R. Pension Committee's recommendations. Write to him yourself, encourage your comrades to do likewise; have your Post memorize him on the subject, and in this way show him that the soldiers of the country are warmly in earnest in their wish for the passage of such a law.

CONGRESSMAN J. C. BURROWS, of Michigan, introduced two bills, Monday of this week, calculated to protect pensioners from injustice resulting from being erroneously dropped from the pension rolls. The first provides that when a soldier shall have been dropped, and upon application for restoration it shall be found that not only is he under the disability for which he drew a pension, but has other disabilities, he shall not only be restored, but that his rating shall be increased to correspond to the newly-discovered disability.

The second bill provides that where a pensioner shall have been dropped from the roll and shall be subsequently restored, he shall be paid the amount lost by the suspension and interest upon the same.

The bills were appropriately referred.

A MAN has to drink 31 gallons of beer before he contributes \$1 to the United States Treasury. As even a "stove-pipe" of beer contains much less than a pint there are from 12 to 20 glasses in every gallon, with an average, say, of 16. Therefore, there are about 500 glasses in a barrel, so that the contribution to the Treasury of the man who pays five cents for a glass of beer is a fifth of a cent, of which one-fifth goes into the pension fund. That is, a man must drink at least 25 glasses of beer before he contributes one cent toward keeping a disabled soldier out of the poorhouse, or saving the widow and orphans of such from becoming a town charge.

If your neighbor opposes pensions to the soldiers on the ground of burdening the people with taxation, ask him how much he or anyone that he knows is paying into the Government's coffers. This will be enough. He is probably not paying a cent, unless he smokes cigars or drinks beer or whisky. Even then he has to do a good deal of both to pay a very little money into the Treasury.

He has to drink a gallon of whisky before he pays 90 cents, or four kegs of beer before he pays \$1. He would not get his beer or whisky or cigars a cent cheaper if the taxes were taken off. The difference in the cost would go to increase the profits of the men who make and sell beer, whisky and cigars.

RECENT LITERATURE.

TALES OF ECCENTRIC LIFE. By Wm. A. Hammond and Glen Leno. Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York. For sale by E. B. Appleton, Washington, D. C. Price 25 cents.

Dr. Hammond's novels have been such unqualified successes that he has ventured into the short-story field, and this book is an interesting collection of these, written by himself and daughter.

The *Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution* for 1884 is just out, and it is a volume that will commend itself not only to scientists but to the public generally. Aside from the review of the business affairs of the institution by the Secretary, Prof. Spencer F. Baird, the volume embraces an epitome of the results of research in various fields for the extension of knowledge, showing gratifying advances and great activity in many directions. The list of books and treatises published during the year, classified under appropriate heads, alone makes the volume a very valuable contribution to bibliography. The variety of subjects under consideration and the vast amount of work in progress by the Bureau of Ethnology is especially noticeable, and includes extensive studies of the aboriginal languages of the country, a systematic investigation of the antiquities of the continent and kindred subjects. The field work in American paleontology has made great progress, and very important in results, while the vigor of the Fish Commission work will challenge admiration among lovers of practical science everywhere. In geography and meteorology the reviews show much progress towards a perfect map of the world and new light upon the phenomena of storms. An interesting feature of the volume is an appendix, embracing several papers calculated to interest others than those strictly classed